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OCT 30 1995

FCC MAIL ROOM

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Oct - 30<sup>th</sup> / 1995 -

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Kirk Siegel,

I am so glad someone is trying to do something about the programs being shown on T.V. that are so sexually explicit, so violent, the talk so profane.

I can't imagine a producer who has no concern about children of this world, other than his own. His children live in and will come in contact with these other children who will be affected by these programs - "One bad apple can spoil a basket!" No one lives alone in this world.

I have five grandchildren, 22 to 36, also four great-grandchildren, I am very concerned about all of them growing up in our world today.

T.V. could be of value in training and teaching children and adults, the people who come to this country who need to learn the language here in order to get a job to prosper here to teach their children, etc.

There should be a law where so many hours a week would be for educational programs - What are the people doing to our children?

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Those who are in a position to make a difference do not seem to care.

Our land is in a terrible position.

What can we do to make a better world for our children? They cannot help themselves.

Please do all you can to make a safer, decent world for our children to grow up in. Children have always been special to me. They are at the mercy of adults.

Sincerely,

Marie L. Frapp  
500 Roosevelt Bldg. Apt. 300  
Falls Church, Va. 22044

(File. 703.533.0710-

MM 93-48

From: FRANK STARR <frank.starr@pchelp.com>  
To: A4.A4(fccinfo)  
Date: 10/28/95 9:41pm  
Subject: Educational TV 1 of 2

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Mr. Reed E. Hundt  
Chairman, FCC

October 28, 1995

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I read with interest your recent letter to Ann Landers about FCC considerations, as it was worded in your letter, "whether broadcasters should be required to show at least three hours per week of educational programs for kids."

I'd like to provide my comments, ask some questions, and make some recommendations.

First of all, I would like to know what is meant by "broadcasters".

Would this mean every TV and radio station in the U.S.? If this is just television, would this be the local affiliates only, or include the major networks? And if TV stations are to provide educational programming, would cable stations like the Cartoon Network, CNBC, American Movie Classics, ESPN and SHOWTIME be included?

I'd also be interested in a definition of what sort of educational programming broadcasters would be expected to provide. Would things of a purely scholastic nature be mandated, or could the definition be liberal enough to allow some entertainment? And what mix of entertainment to education would be expected?

I'm not certain that more educational programming is needed, specifically. Those without cable only have PBS to turn to for educational programs, but I think there is at least three hours of educational programming a week there. There is still Sesame Street and Barney for children. I think that PBS will survive the attempted slaughter by Congress, so that these will survive. I haven't had time to add everything up, but I think current PBS programming provides at least three hours a week of educational programming for all age groups.

The main thing I can think of in the realm of educational programming provided by the broadcast (noncable) networks is the "Afterschool Special" series shown on ABC. Neither I nor my children have ever seen it, but I know it was highly spoken of by TV Guide.

As for the cable channels, you have the following channels which have something of educational value. I think there are enough of these channels available on all cable systems so that three hours a week could be had by all ages: government access, CSPAN 1 & 2, educational access (sometimes 1 and 2), the Weather Channel and CNN/Headline News (at least somewhat), Discovery, and the Learning Channel.

I'm not saying that the idea of mandated educational programming is unnecessary. I just wonder how much is needed in light of the above.

Personally, I think it would be better if more programming weren't attempted solely to appeal to the lowest common denominator; to just make a fast buck, with so much flushed at the blink of an eye unless it gets high ratings. If more of the public would tell all broadcast companies that they are totally sick of this kind of thing, that might bring about a better change.

Television for children would be better if violence in action and language were not allowed before 9 p.m. in all time zones - even news channels like CNN should be subject to this restriction. No foul language, no torn or mutilated human bodies, no sexual innuendoes, no nudity - even on movie channels like HBO. As an incentive, perhaps prime time could be extended from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. in all time zones, with the use of the 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. hours being at the discretion of the local affiliate stations. But in return for this, no more than three hours per week would be allotted for each station to allow things like stupid adults or parents, dehumanizing humor, etc.

Networks are always saying that this sort of programming must be what is wanted, because it is what sells. I have a suspicion that network figures are orchestrated quite a bit. And as for the excuse that there is a lot of violence in the evening news, that doesn't excuse violence in network programming. We could just regulate news programming a bit.

I have two children, a daughter of 13 and a son of 17. When they were growing up, they started with Sesame Street, and Looney Toons cartoons (and their competitors like Woody Woodpecker, Disney's troupe, Popeye, etc.). When it came to non-cartoon programming, they chose Nickelodeon's Nick at Night series: reruns of Bewitched, Patty Duke, Mr. Ed, etc. I got the Disney Channel for them when my youngest was about six years old, and they watch a lot of the Cartoon Network. My son's main interests outside of this have been the Transformers in all of their incarnations, and professional wrestling. I explained to him from the first that professional wrestling is all orchestrated, which is why he

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prefers it to all other sports, with their real-life mayhem.

I think that television would make a more valuable contribution to kids if there were more programming along these lines. Sex, violence, and demeaning humor should not be aired before 9 p.m., and should be restricted to three hours a week per network. And no trading allowances between networks or TV stations so that if one network doesn't use its weekly allowance, another gets to show over three hours.

I am going to send copies of this letter, via e-mail, to a couple of internet mail lists, and encourage everyone to give you their opinions. I believe that a majority of the American Public will not write letters, however. In order to get their opinions, I think you should negotiate with PBS and CNN to present your intentions, and provide an 800 number for phoned in responses. The number should be in the offices of the FCC, so that extra funds wouldn't have to be allocated to

PBS. And this numbers should be staffed for a few hours after the airing of the show, to get maximum response.

Since everyone doesn't watch PBS and CNN, you might also approach CBS, ABC, NBC, and perhaps even FOX and other stations which have news broadcasts. Get in a two to five minute broadcast about your proposal, and feature the 800 number for telephoned feedback. This information could be made available to all newspapers.

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From: FRANK STARR <frank.starr@pchelp.com>  
To: A4.A4(fccinfo)  
Date: 10/28/95 9:42pm  
Subject: Educational TV 2 of 2

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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As a final attempt to get a response from the widest cross segment of the population, I think it would be a good idea to send a little one or two page flier home with all school children. The 800 number could be featured. You might also include a questionnaire and post paid envelope, but I'm not sure whether people would be more inclined to call or fill out and mail a postage paid questionnaire.

Of course, if you go as far as I am suggesting to publicize the 800 number, you'd have to provide from five to ten call in lines (all switched so that callers only have to use one number). You could staff them from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Or, if it would save money, have a super answering machine setup to answer 24 hours a day. If the answering machine is used, keep it simple. State the proposal in one to three simple sentences, and then ask people to "press 1 for 'yes' or 2 for

'no'", or maybe just have everyone say "yes" or "no", so that touch-tone and pulse telephones can respond. Then, allow three minutes for additional comments.

Finally, a personal proposal. If you decide to go ahead with a requirement for all broadcast networks to provide three hours of educational programming per week, and a new office has to be created for that, I would like to be employed as apart of it. I live in Tampa,

Florida, and wouldn't want to move to Washington, D.C. However, I could provide the following services:

I have a computer with a printer and faxmodem, as well as a television and a VCR. I could watch network educational programming, both videotape samples provided by them, as well as what they actually broadcast. I could provide daily or weekly reports, both in the form of personal review articles and filling out forms provided. My personally created reports could be e-mailed or faxed, while forms could be mailed via the postal service or faxed.

I could work for from \$20 to \$25 per hour, and would provide my own medical and dental insurance. I am a published writer and member of the

Cassell Writer's Network, so all reports from me would be professional and incisive, while at the same time providing regional input from outside the confines of our nation's capital. Additionally, I could speak with parents in a variety of places, from PTA meetings to Chamber of Commerce meetings, to solicit their input. Since I live near the University of South Florida, it's possible I could get opinions from some university professors.

Replies can be sent to me at any of the e-mail addresses below, or via U.S. mail. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Frank Starr  
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